

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 OES-06 DLOS-06 SAL-01

AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ARAE-00 /085 W

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P R 171414Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3570

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1759

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MISS OVIP PFOR PINR EC

SUBJ: GOE MISSION TO WASHINGTON: THE ODD COUPLE PLUS ONE.

1. DEPARTMENT PRESUMABLY HAS SUFFICIENT FACTUAL BACKGROUND DATA ON FONOFF UNDERSECRETARY JOSE AYALA LASSO AND VADM RENAN OLMEDO, CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF, WHO ARE THE TWO PRINCIPALS IN THE MISSION THAT THE GOE IS SENDING TO WASHINGTON ON MARCH 24-25. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE INTER-PERSONAL DYNAMICS BETWEEN THE TWO WHICH WILL PROBABLY HAVE A MAJOR ROLE IN AFFECTING THE TONE OF THE VISIT.

2. OLMEDO IDENTIFIES HIMSELF FULLY WITH EFFORTS BY THE THREE-MAN MILITARY JUNTA, WHICH TOOK POWER IN JANUARY 76, TO BACK OFF FROM CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE US AND ESTABLISH A MORE INTIMATE AND COOPERATIVE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. ALTHOUGH MUCH OF OLMEDO'S THINKING ON THIS QUESTION IS ANALYTIC IN TERMS OF NATIONAL INTEREST, A GREAT DEAL OF IT SEEMS TO BE SPONTANEOUS AND SUBJECTIVE, BASED UPON HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH AMERICANS AND AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS. REINFORCING THIS POSITIVE
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VIEW OF THE US IS OLMEDO'S DEEP ANTIPATHY AND SUSPICION OF COMMUNISM. FOR INSTANCE, HE PERCEIVES THE PERUVIAN THREAT NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF TRADITIONAL NATIONAL ANTAGONISMS, BUT, ALMOST AS IMPORTANT, IN TERMS OF THE SOVIET-COMMUNIST PRESENCE IN PERU AND ITS POTENTIAL FOR SUBVERSION OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. OLMEDO SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A KEY FIGURE IN LIMITING THE EXPRESSION OF GOE ANGER AND DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE US FOLLOWING THE KFIR

VETO, AND THE IDEA OF A HIGH LEVEL MISSION TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS THE BROADER IMPLICATIONS MAY HAVE BEEN GENERATED BY HIM. OLMEDO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF STRONGLY WITH THE ORIGINAL PLAN TO SEND A MINISTERIAL LEVEL TEAM, WHICH HE FELT WOULD HAVE HAD GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MORE ACCURATELY ECUADOREAN SENTIMENTS AND HAVE MORE IMPACT ON US. HE HAS RECENTLY BEEN EXASPERATED BY FONOFF EFFORTS TO DOWNGRADE THE MISSION, TURN IT INTO A PERSIAN MARKET OF VARIOUS FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS ONLY VAGUELY RELATION TO SECURITY, AND TO REDUCE THE MISSION'S MILITARY COMPONENT. OLMEDO'S FRUSTATION ABOUT FONOFF MANEUVERING ON THE TRIP HAS BEEN CONDITIONED BY HIS HIGHLY CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD FONOFF IN ITS CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY OVER THE PAST YEAR. OLMEDO BELIEVES THAT FONOFF HAS GRATUITOUSLY JEOPARDIZED ECUADOREAN NATIONAL SECURITY BY TAKING NEGATIVE POSITIONS TOWARD US INTERESTS AND TOWARD CHILE IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. HE HAS INDICATED TO EMBOFFS THAT HE WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED IF US OFFICIALS DID NOT BRING UP THE ISSUE OF ECUADOR'S PERFORMANCE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA WHEN THEY MEET WITH HIM AND AYALA. SUCH A DISCUSSION, HE BELIVES, WOULD GIVE THE MILITARY A STRONGER LEVER TO CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE FOREIGN POLICY IN FAVOR OF GREATER IDENTIFICATION WITH THE WEST.

3. AYALA PROBABLY EPITOMIZES THE TYPE OF FONOFF OFFICIAL WHICH OLMEDO FINDS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND OR ABIDE. YOUNG FOR HIS POSITION AND ARISTOCRATIC IN BACKGROUND, AYALA IS CALCULATING AND DISPASSIONATE. HE SHARES THE COMMON FONOFF VIEW THAT A SMALL COUNTRY CAN BEST PROMOTE ITS FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS, NOT BY ESTABLISHING SENTIMENTALLY-BASED OR EXPEDITIOUS ALLIANCES, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT THROUGH THE CONSISTENT DEFENSE OF IMMUTABLE PRINCIPLES. ALTHOUGH A CATHOLIC CONSERVATIVE IN HIS SOCIAL ATTITUDES, AYALA IS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF ECUADOR'S IDENTIFICATION WITH THE THIRD WORLD AND WITH THE NECESSITY OF ESTABLISHING A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. WHILE FRIENDLY TO US AND CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH THE US, AYALA IS SO CONSCIOUS OF ECUADOREAN SOVEREIGNTY, EQUAL TREATMENT AMONG STATES, AND PROUD THAT HE SEEMS RATHER RESERVED ABOUT FOSTERING GREATER INTIMACY THAN EXISTS AT PRESENT. MECHANISTIC IN HIS APPROACH AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL, AYALA TENDS TO VIEW RELATIONS WITH THE US AS CONSISTING OF A NUMBER OF DISCRETE ISSUES, WHICH MUST BE METICULOUSLY ARGUED, ONE BY ONE, AND WHEREIN THE ECUADOREAN POSITION MUST BE UPHELD UNTIL THE LAST. HE IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO WHAT HE REGARDS AS COERCIVE AND INTERVENTIONIST ACTIONS BY THE US, SUCH AS REQUIRING OBSERVANCE OF US FISHING REGULATIONS ON ECUADOREAN CLAIMED WATERS IN ORDER TO EXPORT FISH TO THE US, DENIAL OF ACCESS TO IDB SOFT LOANS, EXCLUSION FROM GSP, ETC. WHILE OLMEDO OUTRANKS AYALA IN THE ECUADOREAN HIERARCHY, THE FONOFF REPRESENTED BY AYALA IS

EXTREMELY JEALOUS OF ITS AUTONOMY, IS DISDAINFUL OF THE MILITARY'S GRASP OF THE SUBTLETIES OF FOREIGN POLICY.

4. COLONEL RAUL GOETSCHER MARTINEZ, 44, IS THE COMMANDER OF THE FIRST AIR ZONE. PRIOR TO ASSUMING HIS PRESENT POSITION IN FEBRUARY 1977, HE HAD BEEN AIR ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON SINCE 1975, AND A STUDENT AT THE INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE COLLEGE IN 1974. GOETSCHER UNDERWENT PILOT TRAINING IN COLOMBIA AND US (1959), AND ATTENDED A TWO YEAR SQUADRON COMMANDERS COURSE IN BRAZIL (1962-64). BEFORE GOING TO WASHINGTON, GOETSCHER SERVED AS BOTH ASSISTANCE DIRECTOR AND DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND ASSISTANCE AND DIRECTOR OF MATERIAL. GOETSCHER TENDS TO BE ON THE BLAND SIDE AND HAS LITTLE INFLUENCE OUTSIDE OF HIS IMMEDIATE RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPERTISE. HE IS NOT KNOWN AS "A POLITICKER" WITHIN THE FAE AND HIS DESIGNATION FOR THIS IMPORTANT MISSION MAY INDICATE THAT FAE COMMANDER GENERAL LEORO HAS SOME PERSONAL CONFIDENCE IN HIM. HE ALSO MAY HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEN SELECTED BECAUSE GOETSCHER WAS OUT OF THE COUNTRY DURING THE KFIR VETO CRISIS AND IS NOT ENCUMBERED BY BEING IDENTIFIED AS HAVING STRONG VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT OF ALTERNATIVES. IN OTHER WORDS, GOETSCHER WOULD BE RELATIVELY FREE TO MAKE TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE BASIS OF HIS TRIP TO THE US WHICH COULD DIFFER FROM THE STATED POSITIONS OF OTHER FAE OFFICERS, INCLUDING LEORO. THIS WOULD HELP FAE EXTRICATE ITSELF FROM THE CORNER IT IS PAINTING ITSELF INTO ON THE SUBJECT OF ACQUISITION OF US EQUIPMENT.
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